



**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10-19-06\*\*\***

***From the Office of the Director of Health***

## **2006 Environmental Report Card Highlights Area Beauty**

The 2006 Environmental Report Card is incorporated into a fourteen-month calendar that boasts beautiful seasonal photographs by local photographers; tips for preserving the environment, saving energy, and protecting public health; along with selected data to mark our community's progress, or lack of progress, in achieving environmental health goals.

"While the Environmental Report Card data provide information on how we have done in the last three years, the calendar suggests environmental opportunities during the coming year," says community and environmental health planner Karen McKinnis. "It is our hope that the report will raise local environmental awareness, and the calendar will help keep environmental concerns in mind all year."

Environmental Health Indicators from seven areas of concern are listed for 2003, 2004 and 2005. The seven areas are water quality, community health, environmental improvements, solid waste/recycling, air quality, population growth and energy usage.

"The monthly photos clearly show our great environmental wealth here in the Ozarks," adds McKinnis. "Residents and visitors alike can enjoy these resources, but everyone needs to ensure their environmental impact is a positive one."

This fourth annual environmental report card is a collaborative effort between City Utilities of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. Community statistics were provided by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, Greene County Resource Management, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, City of Springfield Public Works, City of Springfield Planning and Development, Ozark Greenways, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, City Utilities of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Health Department.

A limited supply of the report card/calendar is available at the Springfield-Greene County Health Department located at 227 E. Chestnut Expressway, and at Springfield Public Libraries. The report card indicators can also be viewed at <http://health.springfieldmogov.org>.

**For more information, contact:**

Karen McKinnis, Community & Environmental Health Planner (417) 830-9505

Jaci McReynolds, Public Health Information Specialist (417) 830-9511

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